

# STORY ELEMENTS GRAPHIC ORGANIZER: TEXT STRUCTURE FOR LITERARY TEXTS

**Setting:** Setting is the time, place, and context of the story's action. Setting includes ideas, customs, values, and beliefs.

**Characters:** Characters are the people in a story's plot. They can be round or flat, static or dynamic.

- The protagonist is the main character.
- The antagonist is in conflict with the main character. Not all stories have antagonists.

**Conflict:** Conflict is a struggle between opposing forces.

- An external conflict is one between a character and an outside force, i.e., individual vs. individual, individual vs. nature, and individual vs. society.
- An internal conflict takes place within the mind of a character who is torn between opposing feelings or between different courses of action, i.e., individual vs. self.

**Theme:** Theme is the central idea or message of a story, often a perception about life or human nature.

- Stated themes are directly presented in a story.
- Implied themes must be inferred by considering all the elements of a story and asking what message about life is conveyed.

**Point of View:** Point of view refers to the relationship of the narrator, or storyteller, to the story. Multiple narrators add complexity to a text.

- In first-person point of view, the narrator is a character in the story, referred to as "I."
- In third-person limited point of view, the narrator reveals the thoughts of only one character, referring to that character as "he" or "she."
- In third-person omniscient point of view, the narrator knows everything about the story's events and reveals the thoughts of all the characters.

**Plot:** Plot is the sequences of events in a story. Each event causes or leads to the next. Multiple storylines, subplot/s, and time shifts (i.e., flashback/forward) add complexity to a text. Most plots develop in five stages:

- Exposition introduces the story's characters, setting, and conflict.
- Rising action includes the important events that are complications, twists, or intensifications of the conflict/s.
- Climax is the turning point of the story; it is in direct relationship with the conflict.
- Falling action is the logical result of the climax.
- Resolution presents the final outcome/s of the story; it is how the conflict is resolved.

